

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SSM-03 SAA-01  
SES-02 TRSE-00 OMB-01 ACDA-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00  
PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15  
NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 /092 W  
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O 241307Z AUG 78  
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5079  
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN  
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT  
AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS  
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA  
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
USMISSION SINAI  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 10873

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINT, PGOV, IS  
SUBJECT: THE DMC FINALLY SPLITS - NO EFFECT ON CAMP DAVID

REF: TEL AVIV 10677

1. CLIMAXING MONTHS OF INTERNAL FEUDING AND INCREASING  
TENSION, THE DEMOCRATIC MOVEMENT FOR CHANGE FINALLY SPLIT  
YESTERDAY, AUGUST 23, INTO THE TWO GROUPS WHOSE MERGER  
CREATED THE PARTY NEARLY TWO YEARS AGO. IN CONTRAST TO  
THE BITTERNESS THAT RECENTLY CHARACTERIZED RELATIONS  
BETWEEN THE TWO WINGS OF THE PARTY, THE SEPARATION WAS  
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AMICABLE. EXPECTED TO REVERT TO THEIR ORIGINAL NAMES OF  
DEMOCRATIC MOVEMENT AND SHINUI (CHANGE), OR VARIATIONS  
THEREOF, THE TWO SUCCESSOR PARTIES FOR THE MOMENT ARE  
THE YADIN-TAMIR GROUP, CONSISTING OF SEVEN MK'S, AND THE  
SHINUI FACTION OF FIVE MK'S LED BY AMNON RUBINSTEIN.  
SHINUI IS EXPECTED TO DECIDE TO LEAVE THE GOVERNMENT  
COALITION WHEN IT MEETS NEXT MONTH TO ORGANIZE.

2. THE INTENTIONS OF THE OTHER THREE MK'S REMAIN A QUESTION MARK. THE PUTATIVE LEADER OF THIS GROUP, COMMUNICATIONS AND TRANSPORT MINISTER MEIR AMIT, CONTINUES TO SIT ON THE FENCE. INTERVIEWED ON TV LAST NIGHT, AMIT INDICATED THAT THE OPTIONS HE WAS CONSIDERING INCLUDE JOINING ONE OR THE OTHER OF THE TWO NEW PARTIES OR FORMING A THIRD PARTY. HOWEVER, HE WILL DEFINITELY NOT "GO HOME" (PRESUMABLY MEANING HE WILL NOT RETURN TO THE LABOR PARTY FROM WHENCE HE CAME BEFORE JOINING THE DMC). MK DAVID GOLOMB IS CLOSELY ALLIED WITH AMIT AND IS EXPECTED TO FOLLOW HIS LEAD. ALTHOUGH GENERALLY LINKED WITH AMIT, MK ASSAF YAGURI'S LOYALTIES ARE LESS CERTAIN.

3. COMMENT: AMIT'S DECISION WILL DETERMINE WHICH OF THE SUCCESSOR PARTIES ENDS UP THE LARGEST AND WILL INFLUENCE WHAT HAPPENS TO THE CABINET LINE-UP. SHOULD AMIT JOIN SHINUI OR BECOME AN INDEPENDENT, HE WOULD PRESUMABLY RESIGN HIS CABINET SEAT. IF HE THROWS IN WITH YADIN, THE DEMOCRATIC MOVEMENT MAY WELL RETAIN THREE OF THE FOUR DMC CABINET PLACES. MOST OBSERVERS BELIEVE LOSS OF ONE PORTFOLIO IS LIKELY EVEN IF YADIN ENDS UP WITH TEN KNESSET SEATS. NRP MK YEHUDA BEN-MEIR HAS TOLD US THAT, WHILE HIS PARTY MAY AGREE RELUCTANTLY TO YADIN'S RETAINING THE TITLE OF DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER, IT WILL INSIST THAT HE GIVE UP AT LEAST ONE CABINET SEAT. BEN-CONFIDENTIAL

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MEIR THOUGHT IT WOULD BE ISRAEL KATZ'S PORTFOLIO OF LABOR AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS. HE GUESSED THAT YADIN WOULD TAKE OVER THIS MINISTRY.

4. DEFECTION OF SHINUI IS NOT EXPECTED TO WEAKEN THE BEGIN GOVERNMENT. IN FACT, THE COALITION MAY EMERGE STRONGER. SHINUI OPPOSED JOINING THE GOVERNMENT COALITION IN THE FIRST PLACE. IT REPRESENTED THE DOVISH ELEMENT OF THE DMC AND, SINCE THE SLOW-DOWN OF THE PEACE PROCESS LAST JANUARY, HAS BEEN SHARPLY CRITICAL OF THE GOVERNMENT IN ITS HANDLING OF NEGOTIATIONS AND ITS SETTLEMENT POLICY. UNWAVERING IN ITS COMMITMENT TO REFORM, SHINUI HAS ALSO BEEN RESTLESS WITH THE GOVERNMENT'S DOMESTIC POLICIES. LEFT WITH A MORE COMPLACENT, LESS IDEOLOGICAL YADIN-TAMIR FACTION, THE COALITION IS LIKELY TO BE MORE COHESIVE AND, WITH A MINIMUM OF 69 KNESSET SEATS, IT WILL STILL ENJOY A COMFORTABLE MAJORITY OF ABOUT TEN SEATS.

5. THE COMPOSITION OF THE ISRAELI DELEGATION TO CAMP DAVID HAS NOT YET BEEN ANNOUNCED AND IT IS NOT CLEAR WHETHER YADIN WILL BE INCLUDED. ALTHOUGH THE POLITICAL

PRESSURES FROM THE NATIONAL RELIGIOUS PARTY POINT TO YADIN'S POSSIBLE EXCLUSION, BEGIN IS CHARACTERISTICALLY RELUCTANT TO GO BACK ON THE PROMISE HE APPARENTLY MADE TO YADIN TO TAKE HIM ALONG. IN ANY EVENT, THE DMC SPLIT, WHICH HAS BEEN FORESHADOWED FOR WEEKS, WILL HAVE NO EFFECT ON BEGIN'S POSITIONS AT CAMP DAVID. AS WE REPORTED IN REFTTEL, YADIN'S CONTINUING WEAKNESS WITHIN HIS OWN PARTY HAD ALREADY REDUCED HIS ABILITY TO INFLUENCE THE PRIME MINISTER. YESTERDAY'S ACTION SIMPLY FORMALIZED THE OBVIOUS. LEWIS

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## Message Attributes

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